

May 22, 1968

See inv. acc.?

Mr. Joseph J. Thorndike, Editor
Horizon
551 Fifth Avenue
New York 17, New York

Dear Mr. Thorndike:

Thank you for your letter of May 13 and for introducing Mr. Klaw. I also appreciated the copies of Horizon and read the articles on Hall and on Needham with great interest. I would certainly concur in the value of a discussion focusing on recent developments in molecular genetics.

I must tell you, however, that I am not at all amenable to being the subject of a profile at the present time. This is not modesty, true or false, but rather a conviction that my philosophical outlook is at the moment changing too rapidly. I am afraid that a treatment of the kind you have in mind would only distort its ultimate crystallization.

I do, however, have another suggestion to make to you for the principal subject for such an essay: my friend and colleague, Arthur Kornberg. In fact, I am almost tempted to suggest that I write such an article myself, but I would want to give that considerably more thought before making any kind of commitment about it.

In your introductory sentence you comment on "various things you have had to say...". Were you referring to my weekly column in the Washington Post?

Sincerely yours,

Joshua Lederberg
Professor of Genetics

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